

March 21, 1999 edition of the St. Paul Pioneer Press. This article tells the extraordinary story of a St. Paul teenager who has been rewarded for her perseverance and dedication to her community.

Ms. Nou Ka Yang received the honor of being named The Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year for the state of Minnesota. Ms. Yang has triumphed over the devastating circumstances of losing her father at the age of eight after spending time in a Laos Hmong refugee camp. She is currently a high school senior at Como Park High School where she is an honor student. She has maintained a 3.5 GPA and continues to support her community by doing activities such as translating for other Hmong residents who do not speak English.

The Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year Award is a high honor that recently received the support of renowned talk show host Oprah Winfrey. The winners are chosen based on their leadership qualities, academic success, and ability to overcome obstacles. These are all qualities that Ms. Yang and the other candidates exhibit. Having youth in our communities with such promise allows me to feel comfortable about the future of our country.

Each state finalist receives a \$25,000 scholarship and proceeds to the regional level where they compete for additional scholarship monies. I wish Ms. Yang luck as she proceeds to the next level. I know that she will represent the Fourth District and the State of Minnesota well.

[From the Saint Paul Pioneer Press, Mar. 21, 1999]

ST. PAUL TEEN-AGER AWARDED \$25,000 OPRAH SCHOLARSHIP

(By Nancy Ngo)

A St. Paul high school senior has won the Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year award, good for a \$25,000 Oprah Winfrey Scholarship for college education.

Nou Ka Yang, 18, a senior at Como Park High School, took top honors in the annual state competition that started in 1947. Until the nonprofit service club joined forces with the television celebrity last year, however, no cash prize was given.

Yang was chosen Saturday after interviews with judges at the Radisson Hotel St. Paul. She competed against three candidates from the Minneapolis, Duluth and St. Cloud youth clubs.

The Oprah scholarships were established by the entertainer to help children who otherwise might not be able to afford college. The Boys and Girls Club, which emphasizes working with underprivileged youth, was chosen by Winfrey because of its national work, said Marie Grimm, communications director of the St. Paul Boys and Girls Club.

Winners from all 50 states receive a \$25,000 scholarship. Yang now advances to the regional competition with prospects of winning an additional \$8,000.

Yang plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, an option she doubts would have been possible had she not won. She wants to be a computer animator.

She was chosen for her leadership qualities, academic success and abilities to overcome obstacles. Yang, a Laotian Hmong refugee, arrived in the United States from a refugee camp in Thailand when she was 8 years old. She said her father was killed after returning to Laos from the refugee camp.

Yang has four brothers and two sisters. She said she often is busy helping her moth-

er with household chores, as well as taking care of her younger siblings.

Her demanding home life has not prevented her from becoming an excellent student. She ended her junior year with a grade point average of 3.5 Yang has been a member of the Boys and Girls Club for five years and is active at the organization's Mt. Airy public-housing complex location in St. Paul.

"She's an extremely hard worker," said George Latimer, former St. Paul mayor, who was one of the judges. He said he was impressed with Yang's ability to balance home and school tasks. Yang also contributes to her community in activities such as translating for Hmong residents who do not speak English, he added.

Yang sings in a church choir and is on the St. Paul Housing Authority's teen council, among other activities.

The other candidates for the youth award were Charles Adams, a senior at North High School in Minneapolis; Trena Ackerman, a sophomore at Deerfield High School in Duluth; and Tiffany Cherne, a sophomore at Apollo High School in St. Cloud.

The Boys and Girls Club is a nonprofit organization for children ages 6 to 10. There are six Boys and Girls Clubs in Minnesota: St. Paul, Minneapolis, Duluth, St. Cloud, Mille Lacs and Detroit Lakes. The clubs have drug-and-alcohol prevention programs, sports and social activities and offer career-education information.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE ARVESCHOU

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Steve Arveschoug, the General Manager of the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District. Mr. Arveschoug has demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to his work on behalf of the district's many water users. He has emerged as a national leader on the complex and frustrating issue of Bureau of Reclamation oversight. Mr. Arveschoug's tireless efforts have led to a Congressional initiative to examine Bureau of Reclamation practices. Moreover, his keen eye for detail and persistence in negotiations has undoubtedly saved water users and the taxpayers a significant amount of hard-earned dollars. I commend Steve Arveschoug for his solid efforts, and I look forward to working with him in the future.

HONORING DR. MARY CEDERBERG

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues an extraordinary doctor and friend who was recently honored for twenty-five years of outstanding service in Santa Barbara County—Dr. Mary Cederberg.

A graduate of the University of Missouri, Mary received her M.D. from the University of Louisville, Kentucky. She then completed a

Fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital and worked briefly at Harvard University. Since 1956, Mary has worked tirelessly as a pediatrician and an advocate for children.

During Mary's twenty-five years of service with the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department, she has directed the California Children's Services program as well as the Children's Health and Disease Prevention (C.H.D.P.) program. It is through the C.H.D.P. program that Mary has left her mark on the entire county of Santa Barbara, by providing innovative and comprehensive preventive care to thousands of children.

Mary is a dedicated, hardworking, hands-on doctor, who does whatever it takes to help the children and families she serves. It has been an honor to have worked with her for so many years. Dr. Mary Cederberg is a role-model for our nation and her service exemplifies how we want public health care to work. I will continue to look to Mary's vision and leadership as our nation addresses health care for children.

Mr. Speaker, today I celebrate Dr. Mary Cederberg's career and I commend her for years of service to the County of Santa Barbara and to our nation.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH HONOREES

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, as Women's History Month draws to a close today, I rise to salute a woman from my Congressional District in Minnesota whose long commitment to community service has proven her to be a true leader.

Betty Benjamin has been a lifelong proponent of women's reproductive rights, playing an active role in the pro-choice movement for 31 years. A former teacher and social worker, Benjamin helped organize the Abortion Rights Council of Minnesota in 1966, in light of her concern that existing law prohibited a woman's right to choose and caused many women with unwanted pregnancies to seek illegal, dangerous abortions. Through her leadership in the ARC—today known as the Minnesota National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL)—Benjamin and the other unpaid volunteers worked countless hours in their effort to ensure that women have legal access to abortion. Their educating, lobbying, and fundraising efforts were rewarded in 1973 when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Roe v. Wade* to legalize abortion.

But Benjamin's work did not end there. She has remained active in the pro-choice movement because of her concerns that the *Roe v. Wade* decision could be eroded. She led the Abortion Rights Council in Minnesota as president for 14 years, and has served as a board member of the National Abortion Rights Action League since 1967. She represents Minnesota NARAL as incoming chairperson of the Women Candidate Development Coalition, which recruits women across the state to serve in public office. She currently is a member of the National Organization for Women